REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 19 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claim 1, and have canceled claims 17, 18, 20, and 21. The changes to the claims made herein do not introduce any new matter.

Cancellation of Non-Elected Claims

Among other claims that have been canceled herein, Applicants have canceled claims 18, 20, and 21, which are directed toward non-elected species as indicated in Paragraph 2 of the Final Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 18, 20, and 21 in one or more timely filed divisional applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication in the Final Office Action that claim 17 defines allowable subject matter. As will be explained in more detail below, Applicants have amended the claims to place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15, 16, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Pop* (US 7,251,058 B2) (as noted above, claim 21 has been canceled). Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features of claim 17, which has been indicated to define allowable subject matter. As such, claim 1, as amended herein, defines allowable subject matter. In light of the changes to claim 1, Applicants have canceled claim 17.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, independent claim 1, as amended herein, is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over *Pop*. Claims 2, 4-13, 15, and 16, each of which ultimately depends from claim 1, are likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over *Pop* for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 3 and 19

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pop* in view of *Kita et al.* ("Kita") (US

5,502,579). Each of claims 3 and 19 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, Applicants

have amended claim 1 to incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 3 and 19

are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Pop* in view of *Kita* for at

least the reason that each of these claims depends from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

reexamination of claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 19, as amended herein, and submit that these

claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully

requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this

application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional

fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized

to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. MIPFP078).

Respectfully submitted,

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